



Press Release

For Immediate Release

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County Rolls Out New Recycling Carts in the Lower Keys

Monroe County, Florida — They're almost here!! Unincorporated Monroe County's Lower Keys franchise hauler Waste Management of Florida Keys, anticipates distributing 11,000 wheeled, blue, 65-gallon recycling carts (with attached lids) to residents by October 1, 2014. The wheeled carts can hold three times as much recycling as the 18 gallon bins currently distributed by Waste Management, and will still be emptied once a week by the hauler, on your current recycling day.

Gone are the days when you had to use a cardboard box as a recycling bin after your holiday parties. Communities using the wheeled carts have increased participation and volume by an average of 30%. "This is a win-win for everyone," said Roman Gastesi, County Administrator. "Becoming a greener community is not only good for the environment, but it also helps us further our commitment to manage costs by recycling more and sending less recyclable materials to the Waste to Energy Plant. Further, there will be no additional cost to our residents."

How will the 65-gallon carts be distributed?

"Residents will receive home delivery, and they can start using the carts immediately," said Greg Sullivan, Sr. District Manager, Waste Management of Florida Keys. "Also, residents will have the option of returning the old 18 gallon bins to Waste Management or keeping them to put additional recyclables out."

What goes in the cart?

A graphic on the lid will serve as a guide as to what can and cannot be placed in the cart. As avid recyclers may remember, in 2009 Monroe County implemented Single Stream Recycling. This means that all recyclables are mixed together in the same cart including: plastics 1-7 (including emptied plastic milk and juice jugs, detergent and fabric softener containers), metal and aluminum cans, newspapers and inserts, junk mail, magazines, catalogs, soft cover telephone books, brown paper bags, corrugated cardboard, cereal boxes, office paper, file folders, emptied milk and juice cartons, clean glass bottles and jars.

What if someone takes my cart?

Each cart is equipped with its unique serial number. Waste Management suggests that each recipient of a cart, as a precaution, write down the serial number in a safe place in case their cart is lost or placed at another residence in error. If your cart is lost you will be able to call Waste Management, give them the serial number and they will be able to retrieve the cart, and return it to its rightful owner. If your cart can not be located within seven days, it will be replaced at no cost to you.

Customers are asked to call Waste Management at (305) 296-2825 or Monroe County at (305) 745-4307, if they have any questions or need more information.

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